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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/017,827

12/07/2001

Timothy W. Brooks

1067-272

5024

7590

06/24/2004

Woodard, Emhardt, Naughton, Moriarty and McNett
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EXAMINER

HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/017,827	Applicant(s) TIMOTHY BROOKS	
	Examiner Brigitte R. Hammond	Art Unit 2833	

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with th correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 and 28-32 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 20,21,23-26 and 28-32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1,7,8,10 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5,9 and 13-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION II

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,7,8,10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis et al. in view of Korsunsky et al. Regarding claims 1 and 12, Davis et al disclose a connector pair comprising: an over-molded connector 66, comprising: at least one first terminal at 80 having a first terminal sex; at least one wire (not shown) respectively coupled for electrical communication with each of said at least one terminals, and an overmolded body 70, having an overmolded connector terminal end, an overmolded connector wire end and an overmolded connector outer surface, said overmolded body at least partially encasing said at least one terminal and said at least one wire; a hardshell shroud 68 having a first connector sex, said hardshell shroud comprising: a substantially rigid shroud body having a shroud terminal end 72, a shroud wire end 76, and shroud inner and outer surfaces; wherein said overmolded connector is contained within said hardshell shroud, a hardshell connector housing 12 having a second connector sex, said hardshell connector housing comprising: at least one second terminal 14 having a second terminal sex; a substantially rigid connector body having inner surface 52 and outer surfaces (not numbered); wherein said hardshell shroud 68 may be interengaged with said hardshell connector 12, such that said at least

one first terminal 80 engages respective ones of said at least one second terminal 16. Davis et al. do not disclose the overmolded body being at least partially overmolded around said at least one terminal and said at least one wire. However, overmolded bodies being at least partially overmolded around at least one terminal and at least one wire is well known in the art as evidenced by Korsunsky et al. Korsunsky et al. discloses in col. 1, lines 40-45 that overmolded bodies being at least partially overmolded around at least one terminal and at least one wire is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connector of Davis et al. by partially overmolding the terminal and wire as taught by Korsunsky et al. for preventing contamination.

Regarding claims 7 and 8, Davis et al. disclose the shroud 66 and the connector body having an asymmetrical polarizing shape (as shown in figs. 7 and 1 respectively).

Regarding claim 10, Davis et al. disclose the shroud having a latching feature 110.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20,21,23-26 and 28-30 are allowed.

Claims 2-6,9,11 and 13-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 12 (and the claims that depend therefrom) have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brigitte R. Hammond
June 15, 2004


P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800